

LUNDY ISLANDS AND PERFINS

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When one thinks of Lundy and perfins, one usually thinks of the PS (P4145.01m) perfin on the local issues of Lundy, which were available in the mid 80's. These have been mentioned in several Bulletins over the last few years. However, this is not the only occurrence of Lundy and perfins. I recently acquired a perfin cover with a British Post Office Lundy cancel on perfin stamps.

First, a little history. Lundy is located in the Bristol Channel, and has been known since about AD800. It has been occupied since about 1150. The Heaven family arrived in 1834, and owned the island for over 80 years. They sold it to Augustus Christie in 1917, who in 1925 sold it to Martin Coles Harman. It stayed in the Harman family until the late 1960's, when it was sold to the National Trust.

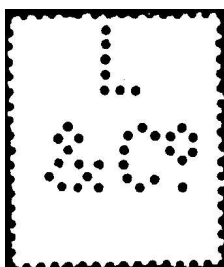
The British Post Office opened a post office on Lundy in 1887. The office stayed open until 1927. At that point Mr Harman asked for it to be closed. The cancel used by the post office is a single circle, with LUNDY ISLAND as an arc at the top, and in the centre Day Month / Year.

In 1929 Mr Harman issued the first local stamps.

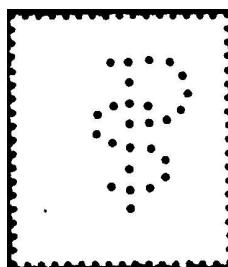
The cover I obtained was sent from London on 13th August 1926 to Mrs Heaven on Lundy. As the Heaven family had left some years earlier, the cover was forwarded. The Lundy post office applied their cancel to the two stamps on the envelope, with date 19th August 1926. The two stamps have perfin L/&Co. (L1200.01). An embossed emblem on the flap identifies the user as LONGMANS, of Paternoster Row, and a date of 1724. This agrees with the New Illustrated Catalogue (L section, 2003) as it states Longmans Green & Co Ltd, 38-41 Paternoster Row, Publishers [Est. 1724]. Some hand written notes on the back of the envelope indicate the letter was a request to quote a description of Runic Stones in the Lundy Church.

So, are there more occurrences of Lundy and perfins? If so, let's hear about them.

I have a small collection of Lundy stamps, and have been trying for years to get one of the British Post Office Lundy cancel. When I finally got one it was on a perfin stamp. Now the question is – which collection do I mount it in??



L1200.01



P4145.01m

